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FloorPrep
Legislative Digest

Monday, July 24, 2000

*The House will meet at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour
and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No votes before 6:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 2773—Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Act of 2000

**H.Con.Res. 232—Expressing the Sense of Congress on the Safety and
Well-being of U.S. Citizens Traveling to Mexico**

**S.Con.Res. 81—Expressing the Sense of Congress that the Government of
China Should Immediately Release Rabiya Kadeer, Her Secretary and Son**
**H.R. 4002—Famine Prevention and Freedom From Hunger Improvement Act
of 2000**

H.R. 4697—International Anti-Corruption and Good Governance Act of 2000

H.R. ____—Defense and Security Assistance Act of 2000

**H.Con.Res. 371—Supporting the National Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation
Month**

**H.R. 4110—Authorizing the National Historical Publications and Record
Commission**

H.R. ____—Truth In Regulation Act of 2000

H.R. 1800—Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000

**H.R. 4700—Consenting to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture
Compact**

**H.Res. 548—Expressing the Sense of Congress on the National Motto For the
Government of a Religious People**

H.J.Res. 72—Consenting to the Red River Boundary Compact



Bills Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following thirteen bills under suspension of the rules

as its only order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 2773 amends the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to include the Wekiva River and its tributaries in the national wild and scenic rivers system. This bill designates 41.6 miles of the Florida river as wild and scenic. H.R. 2773 also establishes the Wekiva River System Advisory Committee which will assist in the development of a management plan. This committee will be comprised of a number of state, local and private entities. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2773 would not have a significant impact on the federal budget. The bill was introduced by Mr. McCollum on August 5, 1999 and the House Resources Committee reported it by voice vote on July 17, 2000.

H. Con. Res. 232 expresses the sense of Congress that in order to protect the safety and well-being of United States citizens traveling in Mexico, the President should begin negotiations with the Government of Mexico to establish a humanitarian exemption to Mexican bond requirements, in order to ensure that United States citizens injured in Mexico can be immediately transferred to United States facilities for adequate medical treatment. H.Con.Res. 232 was introduced by Mr. Hunter on November 17, 1999 and the International Relations Committee reported it by voice vote on June 29, 2000.

S.Con.Res. 81 expresses the sense of Congress that the People's Republic of China should immediately release Rabiya Kadeer, her secretary and her son, and permit them to move to the United States, if they so desire. Rabiya Kadeer, a prominent ethnic Uighur from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China, her secretary and her son were arrested on August 11, 1999. The arrests took place as Ms. Kadeer was attempting to meet a group of congressional staff as part of an official visit to China. Mrs. Kadeer's husband, Sidik Rouzi, has lived in the United States since 1996 working for Radio Free Asia and has been critical of the policies employed by the People's Republic of China toward Uighurs in Xinjiang. Rabiya Kadeer was sentenced to 8 years in prison with deprivation of political rights for two years for the crime of 'illegally giving state information across the border.' S.Con.Res. 81 was introduced by Senator Roth on February 10, 2000 and was reported from the International Relations Committee by voice vote on June 29, 2000.

H.R. 4002 amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to revise and improve provisions relating to famine prevention and freedom from hunger. The bill increases the number of universities involved in third-world crop improvement programs, and encourages non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to work with universities on crop production projects in the lesser-developed world. The legislation seeks to broaden and strengthen the role of non-governmental organizations as partners with U.S. universities working on agricultural extension work in the developing world by making these partnerships eligible for federal funding. Because the bill would not make major changes to current law, CBO estimates that any additional authorization of appropriations under the bill would be slight. Thus, CBO estimates that the cost of those programs would continue at the current rate—approximately \$30 million in 2000. H.R. 4002 was introduced by Mr. Brady on March 16, 2000 and was reported from the International Relations Committee by voice vote on June 29, 2000.

H.R. 4697 is designed to promote good governance in developing countries by enhancing accountability and oversight practices that attack corruption and promote transparency in the administration of government programs and throughout the private sector. The bill authorizes the President to

establish programs to combat corruption, improve transparency, and other good governance in developing societies by promoting practices that support independent media, require independent media, require financial disclosure among public officials, political parties, and candidates for public office, and that mandate open budgeting processes and financial management systems.

By instituting appropriate oversight programs, democratic practices will be strengthened and instituting appropriate oversight programs will enhance confidence in the administration of government and development programs. The bill places priority consideration in those developing societies that have the most persistent problems with public and private corruption and whose governments can benefit most from the oversight and accountability programs that the President is authorized to establish pursuant to this bill. CBO estimates that spending targeted at good governance would continue at the current rate—approximately \$16 million a year in economic and development assistance. H.R. 4697 was introduced by Mr. Gejdenson on June 20, 2000 and was reported from the International Relations Committee on June 29, 2000.

H.R. ____ (the Defense and Security Assistance Act of 2000) modifies authorities with respect to the provision of security assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Arms Export Control Act. These provisions address the transfer of excess defense articles, notification requirements for arms sales and authorities to provide for the stockpiling of defense articles in foreign countries. The bill also includes an exemption for defense export licensing to foreign countries. H.R. ____ authorizes the transfer of two naval vessels to Chile and provides authority to the President to convert existing leases for ten ships that have already been transferred to Brazil, Greece, and Turkey. At press time, a CBO cost estimate was not available. H.R. ____ will be introduced by Mr. Gilman on July 24, 2000.

H.Con.Res. 371 states that the House of Representatives, with the Senate concurring, supports the goals and ideas of the National Alcohol and Drug Recovery Month. September 2000 is recognized by numerous individuals and organizations as “National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month,” which celebrates the tremendous strides taken by individuals who have undergone successful treatment and recognizes the people in the treatment field who have dedicated their lives to helping people recover from drug and alcohol addiction. The 2000 campaign, with the theme “Recovering our Future: One Youth at a Time,” is focused on supporting adolescents in addiction treatment and recovery. H.Con.Res. 371 was introduced by Mr. Ramstad on July 13, 2000 and was not considered by a committee.

H.R. 4110 authorizes appropriations for the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for the next four fiscal years (2002-2005). The Government Reform Committee authorized \$10 million for each of the four years. The National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), provides grants to archivists, historians, State and local governments, and non-Federal agencies and institutions across the Nation to support a wide range of activities to preserve, publish, and encourage the use of documentary sources relating to the history of the United States. H.R. 4110 reauthorizes the Commission to continue its important work, setting an authorization cap at \$10 million annually from fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2005. The CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4110 would increase costs by \$34 million over the fiscal years of 2002 through 2005. The bill was introduced by Mr. Horn, on March 29, 2000 and reported from the Government Reform Committee by voice vote on July 20, 2000.

H.R. 1800 amends the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (*P.L. 104-134*) to provide that in order for a State (including States organized as a multi-State compact) to be eligible to receive a grant for correctional facilities, its grant application must include assurances that the State will follow the guidelines established by the Attorney General for reporting, on a quarterly basis, information regarding the death of any person who is in the process of arrest, is en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, state prison, or other local or State correctional facility (including any juvenile facility). The information, at a minimum, includes: (1) the name, gender, race, ethnicity, and age of the deceased; (2) the date, time, and location of death; and (3) the circumstances surrounding the death. At press time, a CBO cost estimate was not available. H.R. 1800 was introduced by Mr. Hutchinson on May 13, 1999 and was not considered by a committee.

H.R. 4700 grants the consent of Congress to the Kansas and Missouri Metropolitan Culture Compact, a unique agreement between the government of the two States. The compact is a slightly amended version of the original Kansas and Missouri Culture Compact approved by Congress in 1994. It extends the authorization of a special taxing district that facilitates the cultural development of the five county Kansas City metropolitan area in Kansas and Missouri. In addition, the Compact permits residents of the cultural district to levy up to an eighth of a cent sales tax to support voter-approved cultural programs that contribute to or enhance the aesthetic, artistic, historical, intellectual or social development and appreciation of city residents. The definition of “cultural programs” was amended in the new agreement to include sports activities and facilities. Also, the Commission governing the district was changed to ensure balanced representation from each State. If approved by Congress, this new compact will last until the legislature of either state repeals it. CBO reports that implementing H.R. 4700 results in no cost to the federal government. The bill was introduced by Ms. McCarthy on June 20, 2000, and the Judiciary Committee reported the bill by voice vote on July 17, 2000.

H.Res. 548 resolves that the United States Congress encourages the display of the National Motto, “In God We Trust,” in public buildings throughout the nation. This resolution is intended to give support to the belief that our nation was founded “under god,” and that the motto serves the purpose of serves a secular purpose of expressing confidence in the future, encouraging the recognition of what is worthy of appreciation in society and fostering patriotism. The bill was introduced by Mr. Schaffer on July 11, 2000 and was not considered by a committee.

H.J.Res. 72 expresses the consent of Congress to establish the Red River Boundary Compact. This compact sets the boundary between the states of Texas and Oklahoma as the vegetation line on the south bank of the Red River. There is an exception within the Texoma area where the boundary is established pursuant to procedures provided for in the compact. The State of Texas, in House Bill 1355 approved by the Governor of Texas on May 24, 1999, agreed to this compact. The State of Oklahoma, in Senate Bill 175, which was approved by the Governor of Oklahoma on June 4, 1999, agreed to the compact as well. Both states ratified identical legislation. Congress recognizes these Acts as an interstate compact pursuant to section 10 of Article I of the United States Constitution. The Red River Boundary Compact is effective as of December 31, 1999. The resolution was introduced by Mr. Thornberry on October 19, 1999, and House Judiciary Committee reported it by voice vote on July 19, 2000.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest* Vol. XXIX, #21, July 21, 2000



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